

Please Reject the NAB's obstructionist petition, 04-160.

I am a paying subscriber to XM radio, and a licensed Amatuer Radio Operator. My wife and I have elderly parents located some distance away. MY wife's parents are located in a very rural setting in the middle of tornado alley. My parents are in a coastal town subject to hurricanes. It is 800 miles to my wife's parents, 300 to my own, and about 1200 miles between the two. As a result we travel (by car) a lot. When a hurricane threat makes evacuation imminent we face the possibility of traveling towards the storm to assist my parents, and my sister, who has a profoundly disabled adult child.

Even with the wonderful resources of my ham radio equipment, satellite radio is the only resource I know of which provides me with critical information, without interruption, from door to door, under all conditions, and in all locations. Whether I am in Atlanta (home); Houston; Hahira, GA; or Ben Hur, TX; I can get the weather and other important information I need - when I need it. No fumbling around while driving, straining to hear a just out of range station. No tuning in to the local "news" station only to be assualted by smarmy sophmoric smutty humor (such as WGST's Kim Peterson) in lieu of news. No tuning around on the FM dial and getting 20 different stations broadcasting canned music and NO local info. With satellite I know just where to tune to get exactly what I need, when I need it, uninterrupted, in the most urban and most rural places I can find. What is more, I can find a diversity and quality of information and entertainment which is woefully lacking on the broadcast airwaves.

I pay for my service. I cannot understand how anyone can contemplate restricting the flow of first ammendment protected civi and appropriate speech on a private pay subscriber service. Perhaps if broadcasters would focus on providing content that did not embarrass the listener, or a wider range of programming, they would have nothing to fear from satellite. It is enough that broadcasters have the benefit of conducting their profit making businesses on the public's radio spectrum - to underwrite their dispicably poor programming practices by way of protectionism would be a travesty. I suggest that they get their own houses in order and stop worrying about the business of others. I urge you to reject NAB's petition 04-160 in the strongest possible terms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Randolph Wilson Jr.